

Annex M (Fire Support Co-Ordination Centre) to 1 ATF SOP
of 10 Jul 66.

1. The following abbreviations are used -

Fire Support co-ordination Centre	FSCC
Royal Australian Artillery	RAA
Area of Operation	AO
Fire Direction Centre	FDC
Battery Commander	BC

2. The aim of the FSCC is to co-ordinate all fire support including infantry mortars, Naval gunfire, Air Force and Army Aviation activities. It is responsible for the allocation and safety of air space in the Area of Operation.

3. In particular cases it may be necessary for the FSCC to assume responsibility also for ground safety. This is likely when a unit calls for fire in another unit's AO.

4. The following key personnel will constitute the FSCC -

- a. RAA representative.
- b. USAF Liaison Officer.
- c. US Army Aviation Officer.
- d. RAAF Officer.
- e. Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer (As required).

Their duties are shown in Annex BB.

Requests and Clearances -

5. All fire missions must be cleared by the FSCC. In order to achieve this, forward observers will call for Artillery fire on the RAA regimental net but withhold the order to fire until cleared by the FSCC. Once clearance has been granted the Observer may flick to the RAA battery net and continue shooting. In the case of mortar fire the mortar platoon Commander in the battalion FDC will monitor his fire direction nets and will inform the BC of calls for fire by the mortars. The BC will then obtain clearance from the FSCC via the RAA regimental net. It may be possible for the FSCC to monitor the mortar fire direction net if radio sets and operators are available.

6. It is essential that the description of target be as full as possible to enable the FSCC to allocate priority.

7. The Air Grid System will be used to indicate areas unsafe for aircraft due to artillery or mortar fire. This system, in suitable form must be available to all helicopter crews likely to fly in the Task Force Area of Operations.

8. Requests for DUST OFF helicopter must, where possible, include the seriousness of the casualty so that correct priority may be allocated to them.

Priorities for the use of airspace -

9. The following priorities for the allocation of airspace are intended as a guide. It is essential that each request be examined in the light of the current situation and acted upon accordingly -

a. Priority One -

Offensive air strikes by USAF and Army Avn.
Defensive fire by Artillery and Mortars.

b. Priority Two -

DUST OFF (casualty evacuation) except in case of emergency, Opportunity Artillery and Mortar fire missions.

Urgent ammunition resupply.

VIP aircraft missions (officers of general rank).
Air OP.

c. Priority Three -

Resupply.

H and I Artillery and Mortar mission.

Air reconnaissance.

d. Priority Four -

Communication flight.

Air photography.

10. Communications as per Annex D to 1 ATF SOP.

11. Army Aviation and Air liaison officer are responsible for the provision of communications for their own use. The RAA representative will utilize the resources of the RAA Regimental Net.

b. Priority Two -

DUST OFF (casualty evacuation) except in case of emergency. Opportunity Artillery and Mortar fire missions.

Urgent ammunition resupply.

VIP aircraft missions (officers of general rank).
Air OP.

c. Priority Three -

Resupply.

H and I Artillery and Mortar mission.

Air reconnaissance.

d. Priority Four -

Communication flight.

Air photography.

10. Communications as per Annex D to 1 ATF SOP.

11. Army Aviation and Air liaison officer are responsible for the provision of communications for their own use. The RAA representative will utilize the resources of the RAA Regimental Net.